

## USDA Releases Fifth Report from Beef 2007–08 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the fifth descriptive report from its Beef 2007–08 study. The report, *Part V: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08* was produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

Beef 2007–08 is the third national study of the U.S. beef cow-calf industry conducted by NAHMS. The latest study was designed to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's beef cow-calf population. Twenty-four states participated in the study. These states accounted for 79.6 percent of U.S. beef-cow operations and 87.8 percent of the nation's beef cows. Here are a few highlights from the fifth Beef 2007-08 descriptive report:

- About three-fourths of the beef cows (76.7 percent) on hand on July 1, 2008, had calved during the first six months of 2008. By herd size, the percentage of beef cows that had calved during the first six months of 2008 ranged from 66.2 percent on operations with 1 to 49 beef cows to 85.9 percent on operations with 200 or more beef cows.
- During the first six months of 2008, nearly all calves born to beef cows and beef heifers were born alive (97.9 and 94.2 percent, respectively).
- About one percent of beef breeding cattle (weaned or older) died or was lost from all causes during the first six months of 2008.
- During the first six months of 2008, 3.2 percent of calves born alive died or were lost from all causes prior to weaning. The percentages of unweaned calves that died or were lost from all causes were similar across herd sizes.

- Calves born dead accounted for nearly one-half of all calves (44.5 percent) that died prior to weaning during the first six months of 2008. Only 14.0 percent of calf loss or death occurred three weeks or more following birth but prior to weaning. About one out of four calf losses (28.0 percent) occurred more than 24 hours but less than three weeks following birth.
- Four out of 10 operations (39.6 percent) planned to purchase a bull or semen in the next two years specifically for breeding heifers.

*Part V: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08* is available at the NAHMS Web site: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Lyndsay Cole at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail: [lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov).

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